GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1568
ANSWERED ON:27.11.2007
JAIL REFORMS
Ahir Shri Hansraj Gangaram;Bangaru Smt. Susheela Laxman;Chavda Shri Harisinh Pratapsinh;Gaddigoudar Shri P.C.;Pradhan Shri Dharmendra;Rijiju Shri Kiren;Shaheen Shri Abdul Rashid;Singh Deo Smt. Sangeeta Kumari;Singh Kunwar Rewati Raman;Subbarayan Shri K.

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of prisoners languishing in various jails of the country including their tenure at present, State-wise, jail-wise and gender-wise;

(b) the details of basic facilities provided to the prisoners including training, security, rehabilitation programme, computer education and medical facilities etc.;

(c) whether the Government has any proposal to modernise and reform the jails in the country and make the jails less crowded;

(d) if so, the details alongwith the total funds provided to each State and utilized in this regard, State-wise, separately;

(e) whether the Government has constituted any Committee to look into the matter of modernisation and jail reforms;

(f) if so, whether the Government has received such report; and

(g) if so, the details of the recommendations made and reaction of the Government thereon?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO H. GAVIT)

(a): Prisons is a State subject as per List II of the Seventh schedule of the Constitution. As per statistics compiled by the National Crime Records Bureau, there were 345648 prisoners in various jails of the country as on 31.12.2005. Jail-wise and tenure-wise distribution of prisoners is not maintained centrally. However, State-wise and gender-wise details of undertrial prisoners and convicts by period of detention at the end of 2005 is at Annexure-I and II respectively.

(b): The facilities provided to the prisoners in jails include vocational training in various activities such as agriculture, carpentry, tailoring, weaving, canning etc. A total number of 59361 prisoners were given various vocational training during 2005. Further, 1262 prisoners were provided financial assistance on release. 1538 convicts were rehabilitated during 2005. 30090 prisoners were provided elementary education, 38979 were provided adult education, 1650 prisoners were provided higher education and 1658 were provided computer education in jails during 2005. Medical assistance to the prisoners is provided by the jail doctor. In case of serious illness, prisoners are taken to a hospital outside the jail for treatment. During 2005-06, an amount of Rs 33.21 crore was spent on medical assistance to the prisoners.

(c) & (d): Although "Prisons" is a state subject, the Central Government has launched the scheme for Modernization of Prisons in 2002-03 for construction of additional prisons to reduce overcrowding, repair and renovation of existing prisons, improvement in sanitation and water supply and living accommodation for prison staff. The scheme is being implemented over a period of five years with an outlay of Rs 1800 crore on cost sharing basis in the ratio of 75:25 between the Central and State Governments respectively. The scheme has since been extended by another two years w. e. f. 1.4.2007.

The release of funds to the State Governments depends upon the progress made and submission of utilization certificate by the respective State Governments. A statement indicating the amounts released by the Central Government and the amount utilized by the State Government is at Annexure III.

(e) & (f): Yes, sir.

(g): The Committee has prepared a draft policy document and has made wide ranging recommendations pertaining to changes in present prison related laws, improvement in the living conditions of prisons and prisoners including women prisoners, young offenders & mentally ill prisoners, correctional programmes in jail, training of the prison officials, alternatives to imprisonment, setting up of separate directorate of prisons etc. The report has been sent to the respective State Governments/UTs for their views.